

ATTACHMENT AClean Replacement/New Claims (entire set of pending claims)

Following herewith is a clean copy of the entire set of pending claims.

1. (amended) A holder for supporting a series of drills in a vapor deposition chamber to allow a ceramic coating to be deposited on regions of the drills extending from their tips, the holder comprising at least one perforated outer wall provided with an array of apertures into which the drills can be inserted, characterized by the drills are inserted with said regions projecting outwards from the holder, a support wall within the hollow interior of the holder for the or each perforated outer wall parallel with and spaced from the outer wall and provided with a corresponding array of apertures for locating the inserted drills with their shanks substantially parallel, stop means within the hollow interior of the holder spaced inwardly of the or each support wall for locating the tips of drills of the same diameter projecting to substantially the same extent from the outer wall, the hollow interior of the holder and the locating of the drills being such that the part of each drill inwards of the outer wall is shielded from the exterior but is exposed to the atmosphere within the interior of the holder.

2. (amended) A holder according to claim 1 wherein the stop means comprise a back wall in the interior of the holder, parallel to said outer wall and to said support wall.

3. (amended) A holder according to claim 1 having a polygonal outer periphery, said at least one outer wall forming at least one face of said periphery.

4. (amended) A holder according to claim 3 and having a hexagonal outer periphery, alternate walls of the holder being perforated with an array of apertures into which the drills can be inserted.

5. (amended) A holder according to claim 1 provided with a lid shielding the hollow interior from above, said lid being provided with a passage for permitting gas flow between the interior and exterior of the holder.

6. (amended) A holder according to claim 1 provided with means for stacking of the holder with a second holder having a corresponding outer wall configuration.

7. (amended) A holder according to claim 6 having top and bottom faces for abutment together whereby the two corresponding holders can be supported one on the other, and a flange projecting over said abutment of the faces for providing a closure for the joint between the abutting faces.

8. (amended) A method of vapor-deposition coating the tips of a series of drills in which the drills are inserted in a hollow holder having a polygonal plan form with the tips to be coated projecting from at least one outer face of said polygonal form, the holder with the inserted tips being rotated in a vapor deposition chamber to allow each of the drill tips to project from the holder towards the periphery of the chamber for at least a part of the processing period, and a gas admitted to the chamber after deposition of the coating being allowed to circulate through the hollow interior of the holder.